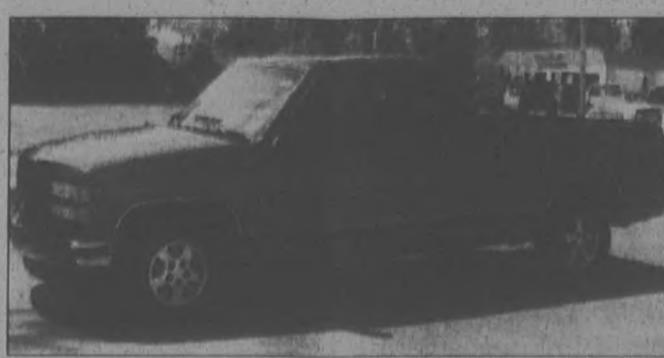


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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 9

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, August 15, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages

Elba firemen fill the boot for MDA



The Elba Fire Department participated in the Fill the Boot campaign on Saturday, Aug. 3, in an effort to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) or Jerry's Kids. This was the second year the department participated in the campaign, and the firemen were able to exceed last year's donations. Elba fireman Randy Hawthorne is captured above holding his boot during the recent campaign. Hawthorne was only one of the many Elba firemen that battled the summertime heat to help with this nationally recognized campaign. Representatives from the fire department will present the money the firemen raised during the annual MDA and Jerry's Kids telephone which will be held Labor Day weekend. The presentation will be made in Montgomery.

Officials continue to urge citizens to avoid mosquitoes

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

There have been three cases of West Nile virus in South Alabama in the last few weeks. Neither of the cases resulted in a death, but did require some hospitalization.

Health officials are urging citizens to take precautions when outside. First they urge to avoid being outside during early morning and late afternoons if possible. This is the time when mosquitoes are most active.

During Coffee County Commission meeting

Presentation made to Billy Joe Richburg family

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission held its regular bimonthly meeting at a special time Monday evening, Aug. 12, to allow for a touching ceremonial presentation to the family of the late Col. Ret. Billy Joe Richburg.

Richburg, a native of Coffee County, passed away earlier this year, and the Coffee County Commission insisted Monday evening that he will always be remembered for his tireless efforts in assisting Coffee County through its emergency management needs.

Richburg worked with the state emergency management

areas coated with the repellent.

Business owners and homeowners are encouraged to empty standing stagnant water in boats, old tires, buckets, flower pots, jars, cans, clogged rain gutters, etc. to eliminate breeding places for the mosquitoes. Bird baths and lily ponds should get fresh water every three days, and at least once a week. Swimming pools which are not kept active should be drained immediately and then securely covered to prevent accumulation of rainwater.

During the previous meeting

of the board, District Six board member Gene Barksdale tendered his resignation which became effective Thursday, Aug. 1. Barksdale's letter informed board members that he was planning to move out of the area and would no longer be a member.

With that, board chairman Charles Walker proposed the board contact Larry Eddins of Enterprise and ask him to consider filling the District Six board seat for the duration of his term. Walker said Barksdale had recommended Eddins for the position.

All members concurred with Walker's proposal, and Thursday evening, Aug. 8, Eddins officially became a member of the Coffee County Board of Education after being sworn-in to office as the District Six representative.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram told board members that the first week of school was a good one, and she seemed encouraged with the school system's enrollment numbers for the first week.

Ingram said systemwide enrollment was up 28.99 students from the previous year with the biggest increase being at the Zion Chapel Schools where enrollment was up 32.5 students.

Please See CCC, Page 7



The family of the late Billy Joe Richburg listen as Coffee County Commission Chairman Tom Grimsley reads a proclamation Monday evening, Aug. 12, honoring Mr. Richburg. The proclamation, which was signed by all commissioners, expresses the county's gratitude towards Richburg and the work he did for Coffee County throughout the years and before his death earlier this year.

In regards to Coffee County Commission Chairmanship
One commissioner takes offense to another's letter

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The issue of the commission chairmanship continued to be a hot topic for the Coffee County Commission Monday evening, Aug. 12, as the matter reached a new level of intensity.

Commissioner Jim Thompson opened the issue for discussion with his response to a copy of a letter which Commissioner received from former commissioner Ernest Brooks.

Thompson quickly made clear his disapproval of the letter saying he felt it indicated that Brooks was referring to the other commissioners as racist.

"I am offended by the letter you put in my box," he said with his remarks directed towards Brooks.

The letter Thompson referred to was a letter written by Brooks to Attorney James U. Blacksher of Birmingham.

In the letter, Brooks indicated he feels as though "the Coffee County Commission is allegedly trying to carry out some of the

old policies—Racism." He said his basis was the consent decree.

Concerning the case John Dillard v. Crenshaw, he said his letter was directed at the Judge, but not the current election process for chairman has been

"feel it is still my responsibility to represent my district," he said. "I feel I should have all rights and privileges as the other commissioners."

During a previous meeting of the commission, Brooks offered a motion that the commission chairmanship be rotated instead of elected; however, his motion failed.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple had questioned the rotation process indicating he did not see how a rotation process could serve as the resolution since there are seven districts in Coffee County and only four years to a commission term.

Monday evening, Brooks responded to this question with

Please See LETTER, Page 7

C.C. Schools experience enrollment increase

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education wasted no time in filling a vacant board member's seat as a swearing-in ceremony headlined the Thursday, Aug. 8, meeting of the board.

During the previous meeting of the board, District Six board member Gene Barksdale tendered his resignation which became effective Thursday, Aug. 1. Barksdale's letter informed board members that he was planning to move out of the area and would no longer be a member.

With that, board chairman Charles Walker proposed the board contact Larry Eddins of Enterprise and ask him to consider filling the District Six board seat for the duration of his term. Walker said Barksdale had recommended Eddins for the position.

As for the other schools, Ingram said New Brockton Elementary School was down by four students, New Brockton High School was up by five and Kinston Schools was down by 45.

Ingram also mentioned the school system's jumpstart program which was held for all kindergarten students.

"I'm tickled by the attendance

we had at jumpstart," she said. "I think it made things go more smoothly on the first day of school."

Ingram said over 100 students participated system wide in the program with 31 attending at Kinston, 33 attending at New Brockton and 45 attending at

Please See BOE, Page 7

Elba addresses mosquito problem

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

It didn't take the Elba City Council but just a few minutes to move through the prepared agenda Monday evening. They paid the monthly bills, made three board appointments, heard the city clerk report on a scheduled "electrical" outage, upcoming paving project and the mosquito problem.

Jim Driscoll was reappointed

to the airport authority for another six year term. Scott Kelley and Nancy Brunson were each reappointed to three year terms on the Board of Zoning Adjustments.

Monthly bills totaling \$17,675.93 were approved for payment. These included \$5,145.76 for vehicle and equipment repair; \$1,670.39 for asphalt and rock; \$784.85 for sewer supplies; \$775.50 for Pee Wee football equipment; and \$1,029 for a security camera system in the police department. This camera system is being donated by two unnamed local businesses.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham reported to the council that there would be an official electrical power outage over a large part of the city on Wednesday night from midnight until about 4 a.m. Thursday. Workers will be installing some new replacement switches at one of the electrical substations.

The clerk also noted that work was scheduled to begin this week on street resurfacing of several downtown streets including Court, Factory, Simmons and Collier Streets.

The threat of West Nile virus from infected mosquitoes was

Please See CITY, Page 7

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
With Ferrin Cox

As this is being written, professional baseball players have just taken a strike vote. They wisely chose not to set a strike date yet. This doesn't mean they will accept whatever the owners decide. Right now they are demanding some verbal concessions from the owners, if they are to complete the ongoing season. It may be "deja vu" for baseball fans as these millionaires battle those other millionaires over which one gets the most of the riches being raked in from loyal fans and TV broadcast rights. It is amazing that either side would let the issue get to a strike vote, judging by the results of the disastrous strike nine years ago, which left America without a World Series that year and fans ignoring the game in droves in the following years. Our opinion on the whole thing . . . yawn, yawn, yawn.

Our news article last week about the West Nile virus was definitely not out of sync. As the papers were going out, news came about a second identified South Alabama case, this one a man in Dothan. While Elba city officials continue their mosquito spraying efforts, experts report that the best preventive efforts are individuals eliminating breeding sites — standing water, in ditches, pot holes, old tires, buckets, etc.—and wearing plenty of repellent on exposed skin when outside, especially in late evening when the "skeeters" are most active.

It is hard to believe in this heat of August that high school and college football seasons are just around the corner. This is the time of year when everyone is looking forward to a winning season . . . if there are no unforeseen injuries to key players. Of course we all know that one can't have winning seasons — the math is just not right for that. Neither are coaches ready to tell their players that "It's how you play the game that counts." Anyway, if you extreme fans will wait just a few more days, you can yell your lungs out in support of the best team around.

The Town of New Brockton continues to wrestle with ways to improve their financial situation. And governments must improve their finances in one of two ways . . . cut spending or increase income. New Brockton is trying a combination of the two. We hope them success.

Any taxing authority looking for additional revenue can take a lesson from Montgomery on what NOT to do. Montgomery city officials are seriously considering an employment tax to raise their needed funds and that has gotten people hotter than an Arizona wildfire in the middle of the summer. A huge number of people who work in Montgomery but live in one or the other of the surrounding counties don't want to pay a city tax to keep that job. Forget that their commuting morning and evening is causing part of the need for more road paving, police patrols, etc., just remember that these folks are mad, mad, mad. They pay Montgomery sales taxes and accept that, maybe because there are sales taxes wherever they buy, but are even pushing to move state offices out of Montgomery if the new tax becomes a reality. Oh, we share their strong dislike for the employment tax.

We haven't mentioned our granddaughter in this column for several weeks. Don't let that fool you — we are even prouder of her now than the last time we volunteered to discuss the merits of grandchildren. Her and her mother spent a couple of nights with us in Elba this past weekend. We were honored with the visit because Chris was at National Guard summer camp. You can tell when granddaughter is here, because you will often see granddaughter Sarah and granddad at the Elba Rec Center, as a number of our friends have seen us and can attest, utilizing those nice, swings. They are especially nice for little children, as it is almost impossible for the child to fall out of them. Anyway, aren't grandchildren grand?

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of August 5, 2002, through August 11, 2002. They were: Gwen Watson, Mildred Armstrong, Terry Griggs and Mildred Armstrong.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$17 per year
6 months - \$9, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$19 per year - including tax
6 months - \$10
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year 6 months - \$11

Paper delivery must go on despite tire trouble

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Last week was anything but a normal week for me at work. In an attempt to try and get a few days off work, I embarked on a rather strange schedule. The goal was to move spending time out of the office than in.

Knowing the importance of getting the paper out, I planned to work all day Tuesday and long enough Wednesday to make my paper deliveries to the stores in Elba and around the county. The rest of the week, the plan was to attend only a couple of events.

It seemed like a pretty good plan, but everything was going well until I hit a little bump in the road . . . on Wednesday morning. I called home hoping to find him there. When Mom answered the telephone, I thought I was home free, but she informed me that he was on his way to work for a little while to take care of a piece of equipment that had broken down.

So I called the shop. Again, I luck failed me as the guys at the shop informed me that he had not arrived yet.

With that, I decided to take action. I left a message for Dad to call my car phone when he arrived at the shop, and I began preparing to change the tire myself. I had changed a tire myself before so I felt as though I could handle it.

Regardless, I went on into the store to make my delivery. Upon returning to the car, I didn't hear the noise anymore, and

I actually had let the problem escape my mind. That was until I started to move the vehicle. Immediately, I realized that I had a tire problem.

I got out of the car and walked around to the passenger side. I was hoping to be more time out of the office than in.

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Regardless, I went on into the store to make my delivery. Upon returning to the car, I didn't hear the noise anymore, and

I got the jack out of the back of the car and proceeded to prepare it to lift the vehicle. I had been working probably two or three minutes when I heard a tractor pulling into the parking lot.

Finally, luck was on my side. I looked up and found a familiar face walking my way. Luckily for me, Linda Hodge had come to have lunch at ZC Express that particular day.

Timmy wouldn't accept anything but my thanks that day. And, even though I would expect nothing less from such a good guy, I wanted him to know how grateful I am for his help.

It's good to know that you still can depend on your friends and neighbors when you need a little help. By the way, Timmy's help also kept me on track with my vacation plan. I managed to work just under 20 hours last week.

And, more importantly, no store was late in receiving its copies of The Elba Clipper to sale to our loyal readers.

I got the tire repaired before the tire store closed at noon. Plus, he saved me from getting overwhelmed mad at that jack since it and I were not working together.

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CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Coffee Baptist Institute of Samford to begin classes on August 26 at the Coffee County Baptist Center.

The Coffee Baptist Institute of Samford University will begin classes on Monday, August 26, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at the Coffee Baptist Center at 603 E. McKinnon in New Brockton.

The Ten Commandments will be taught by Rev. Henry Johnson and 1 Corinthians will

be taught by Dr. G. Lance Hogan.

Classes will continue through December 9, 2002. Scholarships are available to those who qualify. For more information call James Preachers at 347-6717 or Samford University Extension at (205)726-2731.

Community Business Opportunity meeting to be held in Opp

There will be a Community Business Opportunity meeting on August 17, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. until the meeting will take place at the Opp Headstart Center (504 Harden St. in Opp).

Tole painting being offered at ESJC for fall semester

Tole and Decorative Painting is such a popular special interest course, Enterprise State Junior College offers it each semester. This course is scheduled for fall semester for Thursdays, September 5-October 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m. The registration deadline is August 29. As always this course provides instruction for beginners and advanced painters. Painting will be done with acrylics on wood or metal. Students will learn how to prepare a project to be painted, how to select proper tools and materials, and how

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Proverbs 6:1-29



share in this occasion.

Thinking of your prayers for you? Betty English, Betty Banks, Verne Barnes, Rev. Jim Parks, Rev. Jim Marquardt, Norma Leonard, The Lawrence family, Wallace Belcher, Lee Henderson, Rev. Jeff Hibson, Eddie Jones, Mamie R. Henderson, Clifford Jones, Mamie Jones, Richard Jones, Gladys Stringer (Christine) Cheryl Bell, Charlotte Stringer, Charles Stringer, Jr. and family and Brittnie Stringer all of Montgomery, Ala. Marilyn Richardson, Houston, Texas Beverly Thompson, Decatur, Ga. and Barry Everett, Decatur, Ga.

*** Ushers Anniversary at Shiloh Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Elba, Ala. on Sunday, August 18, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. All churches are invited to attend.

*** 50th Wedding Anniversary of Shiloh Baptist Church to hold Benefit Singing for Randy Wilkerson Family Saturday, August 17

Shiloh Baptist Church will hold a benefit singing on Saturday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. for the Randy Wilkerson family. The featured singer will be the

Tiquina Hines, Huntsville, Ala. visiting in the home of her sister, Kimberly Rideout, Enterprise, Ala. Ernestine Kelley and Eria Lindsey Belcher recently in Elba.

Tiquina is a student majoring in Business Management and of Technology.

Today is a good day, be grateful!

Everyone is invited.

Fairview Baptist Church to begin summer Revival Services on Sunday, August 18

Fairview Baptist Church will have revival beginning Sunday, Aug. 18, at the 11:00 a.m. service. Sunday evening service will be at 6:00 p.m.

Monday - Wednesday, Aug. 19 - 21 services will

begin at 7:00 p.m.

Guest evangelist will be Wayne Shaver of Opp. Junior Kelley will lead the singing.

Everyone is invited.

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Monday - Wednesday, Aug. 19 - 21 services will

begin at 7:00 p.m.

Guest evangelist will be Wayne Shaver of Opp. Junior Kelley will lead the singing.

Everyone is invited.

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COMMUNITY

Alabama Highway Department informs public of construction being done on U.S. 84

The Alabama Department of Transportation are informing motorist that S.A. Graham Construction Co., Inc. will begin work on August 12, 2002, on construction of additional lanes of U.S. 84 from Covington County Road 30 to Alabama 141. All Traffic Control Devices will be utilized to safely guide motorist through the construction zone. All motorist are urged to use caution and reduce speed when traveling through the construction zone.

Any public inquiry concern-

ing the work should be directed to Mr. Jerry Benton, Project Superintendent, (334)735-2579; Kenneth Carter, Project Engineer, (334)493-0950 or Mr. Mark Graham, District Engineer, (334)347-8166.

New books available at the Elba Public Library

ADULT NONFICTION:	Alabama's Jimmy Faulkner	Accidental Woman Harris, E. Lynn - A Love of my Own
Anderson, Joan - An Unfinished Marriage	Adler, Elizabeth Summer in Tuscany	Lardo, Vincent McNally's Alibi
Halberstam, David Firehouse	Anderson, Susan - Head Over Heels	MacDonald, Ann - Marie Fall on Your Knees
Miller, James H. - Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses	Brown, Sandra - Tiger Prince (LP)	Medlicott, Joan - From the Heart of Covington
Stanton, Elvin - Faith & Works: The Business, Politics, and Philanthropy	Coulter, Catherine Eleventh Hour	Palmer, Diana Desperado
	Delinsky, Barbara - An	Putney, Mary Jo - The Bartered Bride (LP)

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Sheri Troublefield
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897-8827

Don't
Forget
to



STEPHEN BRYANT, age 11, killed this rattlesnake last Thursday afternoon while visiting with his grandparents in the Goodman community. Stephen is the son of Tina Magwood.

New Brockton Baptist Church to celebrate 100th anniversary

New Brockton First Baptist Church will celebrate their 100th anniversary on Sunday, August 25.

DHR: SEWING SEEDS OF SUCCESS

By Bill Fuller, Commissioner Alabama Department of Human Resources

The man of the house

Our lives seldom go according to plan. Those of us who seek structure and direction tend to plot a course toward specific goals. But things tend to happen along the way that can change our direction. These course changes can sometimes turn out to be a good thing. Some Department of Human Resources cases don't go according to plan either. And sometimes the results are wonderful.

Joshua entered DHR's foster care system for the first time in the early 1970's, when he was six years old. He never knew his father, and his mother had a history of mental health problems. She was in and out of treatment facilities. For eight years, Joshua's life resembled a game of musical chairs. He would be placed with a foster family. When his mother got better, he would go home to her. Then his mother would have a relapse, and the boy would enter another foster home. Then back to his mother, and so on. And then, his mother died.

At about this time, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis lost their son in an auto accident. Because they were good people, and because they needed to be in a void in their lives, they became foster parents. They opened their home to Joshua, who was by then nearly the same age as the boy. It was a match made in heaven. Joshua flourished in the Lewis home. He became an honor student and excelled in athletics. During the summers and after school, he pitched in to help Mr. Lewis, who was a carpenter. There was mutual love between

Joshua and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. A strong and permanent bond was created equal to the bond between children and their natural parents.

Then, after three years, Mr. Lewis died suddenly of a heart attack. Both Joshua and Mrs. Lewis were devastated, but they had each other to lean on. They were a family. Joshua, who was preparing to graduate from high school, became the man of the house and looked after Mrs. Lewis. And Mrs. Lewis looked after him.

Using the work ethic and self-reliance his foster father helped instill in him, Joshua was able to save up some money and work his way through Auburn. He became a civil engineer, got a good job, got married, and had children. Today, he and his family are living in a small north Alabama city. Mrs. Lewis, now an elderly woman, is still a mother to Joshua. He visits her frequently and looks after her.

Foster care is intended to be a temporary situation that lasts only until a permanent home can be arranged. Today, DHR has

many more resources at its disposal than it had 20 years ago. We can do a much better job of helping families in crisis and finding permanent homes promptly for children who come into our system. However, new and improved system could move on the results achieved by loving foster parents like Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and big-hearted foster children like Joshua.

(This is a true story. Names and some details have been changed to protect client privacy.

To learn more about DHR,

go to www.dhr.state.al.us or call

334-242-1850.

James Stevens of Elba is checking his peanuts. Peanuts have received their share of drought and so far on August 1, the peanuts have received enough rains to produce what looks like a good crop. Farmers need to be prepared in areas where the peanuts have received rains the peanuts appear to be maturing a little faster than normal. Also a few growers are finding worms in their peanuts and hay fields. Stevens planted a fall cover crop of rye on all of his peanut land. The peanuts are doing well behind the rye, as the rye provides organic matter to the soil, helps reduce nematodes and the peanuts utilize the residual fertilizer applied to the rye. Stevens has hopes for a good crop. However, the crop needs another four to five weeks of consistent rains to mature the crop for harvest.

With that, Stevens made a motion to table the issue until the judge could come before the commission and explain his request. However, Stevens did not receive a second to his motion.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple asked if the probate office was planning on spending the \$24,000 already allocated in the FY2002 budget to help purchase microfilm readers and then ask for another \$24,000 in the FY2003 budget to complete the microfilming project.

Another option available includes 18 courses offered over the internet. Class schedules are available at area businesses, city government offices, Chambers of Commerce, libraries, ESJC main campus and Ft. Rucker campus. The schedule is also available at the ESJC website, www.esjc.edu. For more information about admission to the College or how to register for classes, call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234 at the main campus, 334-59-3438 at the Ft. Rucker or visit the website!

GIVE HONOR TO WHOM HONORS DO

We the family of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at Abundant Life would like to take this time to make known to all men and women that August 17th was declared by the mayor of the City of Elba to be Bishop Mar Hirron Ignatius Williams Day in the City of Elba.

On this day five years ago he was the first African American to be consecrated as a Bishop in full vestment in the State of Alabama....So in tribute to Bishop Hirron Williams:

In Tribute.... Bishop Hirron Williams

And who do men say that you are? Some call you "The bishop." Others relate to you as "The Prophet." And many have even titled you "A Radical Preacher." But who do we say that you are? You are the Bishop and Father of this house; the one the God has divinely chosen to carry the genetic imprint and characteristics of *A New Breed*. One who has indelibly imprinted within our spirits and minds Kingdom principals, that will forever change the course of our destinies. Your teachings have liberated the captives, Rescued the perishing, Provided an oasis for those in desert place, And renewed solidarity, and singleness of vision among us as a people. Our spirits continually reverberate your percepts and examples that have been so vividly demonstrated within our midst. You've taught us to soar to excel. To elevate our minds...think the unthinkable...Dream the impossible...To redefine our borders and challenge every obstacle! The sacrifices of your family, Pastor Linda and your children, are greatly appreciated. They have counted the cost, And yet persist in unselfishly sharing you with the rest of the world. To the Williams' family...We Thank You! And to those who are of The Constitution of The New Abundant Life Deliverance Ministries, The commander in Chief, and the Captain of New Abundant Life Ministries, Inc. has announced that we are now moving at warp speed! We are pioneering new frontiers, And navigating a previously uncharted course! With precision we must execute his directives. There is no room for lethargy, slumber or sleep. In rank, file and order, we must assume our places. Embrace the vision, and seize the moment.

From:
The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at New Abundant Life Family



Elba Wet Dry Committee to meet Thursday, August 15

The Keep Elba Dry Committee will hold a meeting Thursday, Aug. 15 (TODAY), at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Elba. Committee members will be planning their campaign against the Wet/Dry referendum which will appear on the Nov. 5 election ballot.

All citizens interested in this campaign are urged to attend. For more information, call Jack E. Brunson at 897-2273 x212 or 897-6056.

Small business counseling session planned at Ft. Rucker

A representative from the Small Business Development Center at Troy State University will visit the Fort Rucker ACS Family Member Employment Assistance Program Center Thursday, Aug. 1 to provide free counseling.

The counseling is available from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Call 774-9321 to set up an appointment.

Troy State University's SBDC provides the counseling services monthly at the center, which is maintained by the Small Business Administration. In addition, a small library of various government publications is maintained at the center. Publications will not be available for distribution, however, forms for ordering the publications will be provided.

Commissioner Jim Thompson suggested not spending the money this year and instead rolling that money over to the FY2003 budget.

Commissioners then voted

on the original motion to allow the probate judge to seek bids for two microfilm readers.

However, the motion failed to be recorded.

"We know money is tight," Merritt said. "But we are losing things everyday."

He said the roof needs to be repaired on the society's building in which the library is located.

This project is estimated to cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$10,000, but Merritt said it needs to be done to prevent further loss of material in the library due to a leaky roof.

In other business, the commission:

Approved a motion to list

disposition of various office items

(currently not in use by the county) and a 1985 utility pick-

up date by listing the items on the GovDeals Internet site.

"We're asking for your assistance," Merritt said.

Grimes assured Merritt that the commission would keep the society in mind as it prepares for the FY2003 budget.

"We are presently working

on the budget and have a letter

of request from your organization," Grimes said.

"Hopefully, there will be funds available to send your way."

Commissioners rejected a request from Coffee County Probate Judge William Gammill to allow him to seek bids for two microfilm readers (one for the Elba courthouse and one for the Enterprise courthouse).

Gammill's request asked the commission to allow him to receive bids and pur-

chase the readers with funds

appropriated in the budget.

"Adopted a resolution to

approve a cost-of-living

increase for retirees."

"Approved a motion to

authorize the purchase of a

1997 model vehicle from the

state surplus for the amount of \$5,600. The vehicle will be used by the county's maintenance department.

"Approved a motion to

allow the implementation of the

Wambles Family Cemetery to be located at the back of the

Jack Assembly of God Church Cemetery.

"County EMS director John

Tallas said a new outdoor warning siren has been erected at the New Hope Senior Citizen Center. He said this brings the county's total to 16 outdoor emergency sirens.

On a side note, commissioner

Stephens announced that the

Coffee County Courthouse in

Elba will be 99-years-old on

Thursday, Aug. 22. Stephens

said he thought it would be fitting to hold a celebration next year for the building in honor of its 100 years.

A motion was made with a second to allow the judge to seek bids.

Commissioner Robert

Stephens said the budget was

amended last year to allow

funds to microfilm the records,

and he could not support using

those funds for something other

than that.

With that, Stephens made a

motion to table the issue until

the judge could come before the

commission and explain his

request. However, Stephens did

not receive a second to his

motion.

Commissioner Doug

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From: www.esjc.edu

334-393-ESJC ext. 234

334-59-3438

SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Unless something changes I may have to let my fingernails grow out! Now that school has started it seems like the girls and Mom all get ready at the same time and then head out the door brushing their hair. That is fine, and they get to school on time. However, that leaves Dad having to hunt a brush almost every morning, and some mornings it means I get stuck having to just use my fingers to get it back. We've bought enough brushes to fill the shelves at a dollar store and one day they may pop up, but until then I guess I'll just have to let my fingernails grow out and go natural.

DUSTING OFF THE DESK...

High school football practice has started and it appears that all the schools in the area are off to a fast start. The Elba Tigers had 42 players for opening day and looked like they hadn't missed a day since the end of last season as they went through drills without any problems. The Tigers have 13 seniors that have been playing for the past three years, and combined with a stable of speedy backs, looks like Elba will be alive and well when the season kickoff. The Zion Chapel Rebels had 28 varsity players on the field for their opening day of work and even though the team was filled with young, inexperienced players, the Rebel coaches and players were excited about the numbers out and were optimistic about the upcoming season. If the students at Zion Chapel will get excited about football and the parents will support the program, the Rebels could begin their march back toward the top in A1 football. The Brantley Bulldogs had around 40 players out for their first day in pads and it was easy to see the Bulldogs will be vastly improved this season as they have a solid defense, stop the small school's run. The Bulldogs are strong in the backfield and have speed to burn, while up front the "Dogs" are huge. This could be a big year up in Crenshaw County. The New Brockton Gamecocks aren't real big in numbers or size, but the Gamecocks have a belief that they can win and maybe this will be the year the get back to Brantley football and post a winning record. The players at New Brockton are a hard nosed bunch that are willing to work hard to win and that should make a difference in the fourth quarter of a tight game. The Kinston Bulldogs are down in numbers and short on experience, but the Bulldogs proved they could win a year ago and are determined to keep winning. This bunch of "Dogs" had to stand on the sidelines for much of last season and watch a senior laden squad get most of the action. However, now it is their time to hit the field and the guess here is they will be ready.

The second annual "Foggy Bottom Classic" will be held next Friday night at Miller Memorial Stadium and I urge all Tiger fans to come out and see the Tigers in action against Samson. There is still something special about returning to the old stadium, and I can't think of a better way to spend a Friday night than going down to the levee and watching the Elba Tigers play football. Make you plans now!

Two members of the sports staff of The Dothan Eagle were in town last week to work on a feature about the 1992 Elba Tigers. The '92 state championship team is to be featured in the Eagle's pre-season high school football edition, and included in the feature will be interviews with Coach Mack Wood and a couple of former-players. This is the ten-year anniversary of the state championship team, and I am looking forward to getting my hands on the issue and putting it up with the other mementos of the Tigers' rich football tradition. The issue will be on the news stands on August 29. So, mark your calendars and grab a paper!

In closing, I had last week where four incoming freshman football players at Alcorn took a summer class in either tennis or jogging. Three of the players took tennis so they could "work on our foot work", while all four took the tennis class and received academic credit for taking the courses. I guess by enrolling in class the students also got to use the weight room and other physical education equipment. So, it was well worth the money for everyone involved and could have even helped an athlete gain his eligibility for the upcoming season. It is true that college athletes are also students. However, even regular students need an easy course every now and then to keep that GPA high enough to stay in school, and physical ed courses usually fill that bill.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Elba Tiger fans urged to meet the Tigers Aug. 16

Elba Athletic Club will sponsor a "Hamburger Cookout" on Friday, August 16, at 7:00 PM, to show the club's appreciation for the support of the athletic program at Elba High School by the community. Everyone that participated in the club's recent membership drive is encouraged to attend, as well as active members, new members and prospective members. Coach Mike Waters, their coaching staff and the 2002 Elba Tigers will be introduced at the cookout, which will be held at the Commons Area at Elba High.

City Pool to open on weekends through August

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation has announced that the City Pool, located at Hawkins-Williams Park, will remain open on weekends only through Labor Day, Sept. 2. The pool will be open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM and on Sundays from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Admission is \$1 for children under the age of 12 and \$2 for all others. For more information call the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

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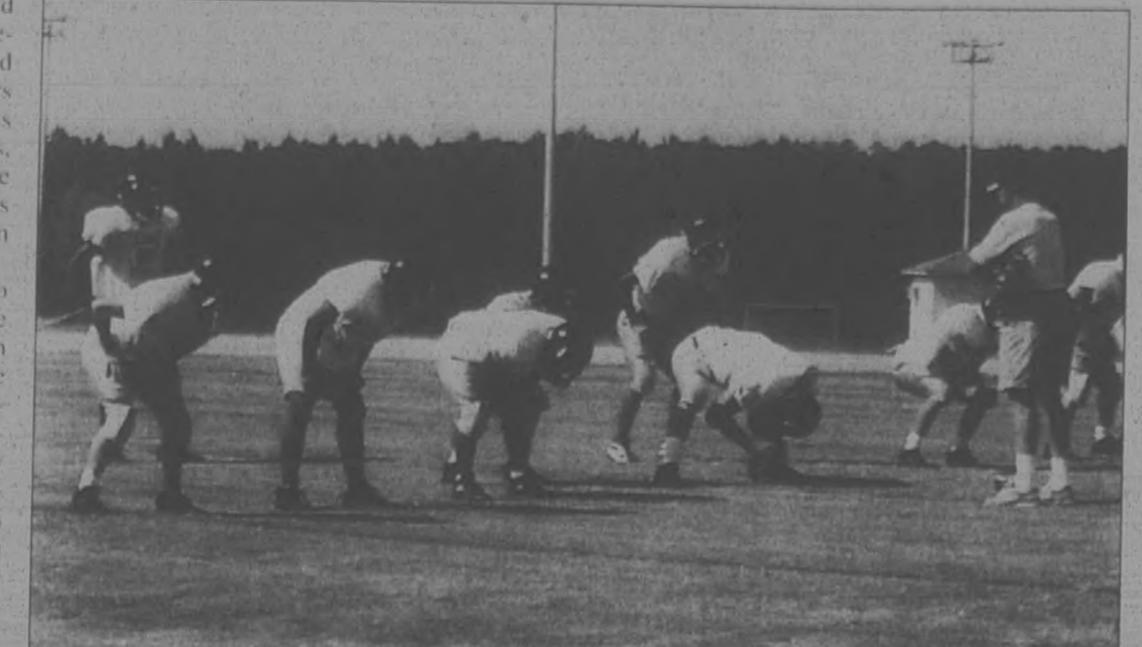
BEAVER DAM APARTMENTS
897-3517 • HIGHWAY 84 W. ELBA, AL

Boys and girls ages 6-12 are encouraged to register for the upcoming Youth Soccer season, to be sponsored by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. A players' age is determined by his/her age on August 1, 2002, and age divisions will include "8 and Under" and "12 and Under." The season is scheduled to begin in mid-September. For more information contact the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

STATE CHAMPIONS...Frank's Lawn competed in the 2002 A.S.A. "Men's 40 and Over" State Softball Tournament on July 20, in Gadsden, and battled throughout the day to bring home the state championship trophy. Frank's defeated four-time defending state champ Brendle's in the finals to win the crown. Team members included (kneeling, l-r) Johnny Dunn, Dan Beard, Mike Williams, Phillip Parker, Gene Snell, Glen Filippowski (standing, l-r) Glen Johnson, Bobby Kinsaul, Mike Barberie, Jerry Mack, Tim Davemont, John Arnett and Frankie Fyler.

Summer conditioning was key

Coach Waters pleased with opening week of drills



Fundamentals were the key word last week as the Elba Tigers opened pre-season football practice. Forty-two players were on hand for the opening week as the Tigers began working toward their season opener on August 30 against Brantley and the August 23 jamboree against Samson.

back on hitting someone with, potential to beat us, and that they will come looking for us. The players enjoyed the success we had last season and helped put Elba back on the map. However, last season is in the past, and what we did on the field last season won't get us a high point this year. These players are still working the day after the season ended last year and now that they are back on the field we all expect the players to work hard and be leaders. That will make our job as coaches a lot easier."

The first three days were good in that we were able to evaluate all the players and check on the condition of the players," added Waters. "Almost every single player was in better condition than they were back in the spring, and that helped make the first days of practice enjoyable, at least to the coaches. We worked on conditioning and fundamentals for the first three days, and did a lot of fundamental work. The players worked hard and did everything we asked of them, but they were ready to put on the pads and were ready for Thursday to get here. The first day out on the pads we spent a lot of time on one-on-one drills and worked against dummies to get the feel

of hitting someone with, potential to beat us, and that they will come looking for us. The players enjoyed the success we had last season and helped put Elba back on the map. However, last season is in the past, and what we did on the field last season won't get us a high point this year. These players are still working the day after the season ended last year and now that they are back on the field we all expect the players to work hard and be leaders. That will make our job as coaches a lot easier."

This week will mark the first full week of school at Elba High and Coach Waters smiled when asked about the first full week of practice in pads.

"We aren't going to go out on the practice field and try to kill each other," said Waters. "But at the same time we have a game to get ready for on August 30

against Brantley, and we have a lot of work to do on both sides of the football in a short period of time. We will do a lot of work on special teams and the kicking game this week, and of course work on our base offense and defense. We will continue to work on the fundamentals every day and will do a lot of conditioning work, and try not to throw too short at the players in too short a time. I try to keep it pretty simple on both sides of the ball, and let the players react to situations. If you don't react when a player across from you tries to kick you, then off then you don't need to be on the field anyway. We are off to a good start and hope that this week will be another solid week of work and that the Elba Tigers will keep working to be the very best team they can be."

When asked about the upcoming season, Coach Waters stated "We have as tough a schedule as any team in the state and this year we won't be able to sneak up on anyone. I have told our team that every team on our schedule will have the

Kickoff changed to 7:00

Second annual "Foggy Bottom Classic" set for August 23 at Miller Memorial Stadium

A look at the schedules of the Elba Tigers and Samson Tigers indicate that both teams open their seasons on Friday, August 30. However, the two long time rivals will give area fans a preview of things to come a week earlier when the two Tigers tangle on Friday, Aug. 23, at Miller Memorial Stadium in Elba for the second annual "Foggy Bottom Classic."

Game time for the pre-season game will be 7:00 and will include three quarters of varsity action and one quarter of action between the junior high teams from both schools.

"Much of the great tradition that is Elba Tiger football lives down by the river at Miller Memorial Stadium," said Elba's Coach Mike Waters. "and it is an honor to return to the stadium once a year and revive that tradition. Most of our players start their careers in football down

Miller in the youth leagues and three members of our coaching staff either played or coached at Miller years ago. It really gets our blood pumping to step on the field down there and you can feel the tradition and pride that helped make it one of the toughest home stadiums in the state for a team to visit and leave with a victory.

We are looking forward to the game and to returning to Miller Stadium."

With the exact rules of the pre-season game yet to be finalized, each Waters stated it is expected that the varsity squads will play three quarters and the junior teams will play the final quarter.

"We want all the players in both programs to get the chance to get to play down at Miller and get in a pre-season game," added Coach Waters. "I know the game will give the teams on our schedule a chance to scout us, but I think the positives far out-

weigh any negatives associated with the game. The game will allow us to get all our players on the field in actual game situations and will also give us a chance to evaluate all the players with a week still left before the beginning of the regular season."

"I want to urge all Elba Tiger football fans to make plans to come to the game and see a preview of this year's team," said Waters. "The game is our biggest fund raiser of the year, and last season the pre-season game was the biggest gate of the season. The game will provide financial rewards to the overall athletic program at Elba High, and hopefully also give a shot in the arm to the athletic program at Samson High. We would love to get to play down at Miller and get in a pre-season game," added Coach Waters. "I know the game will give the teams on our schedule a chance to scout us, but I think the positives far out-

weigh any negatives associated with the game. The game will allow us to get all our players on the field in actual game situations and will also give us a chance to evaluate all the players with a week still left before the beginning of the regular season."

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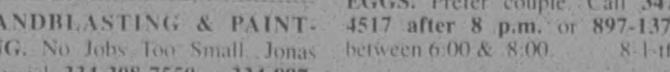
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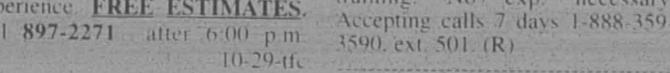
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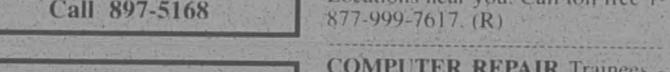
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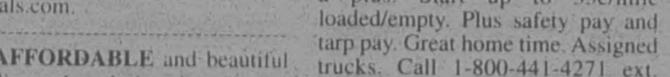
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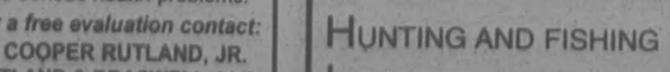
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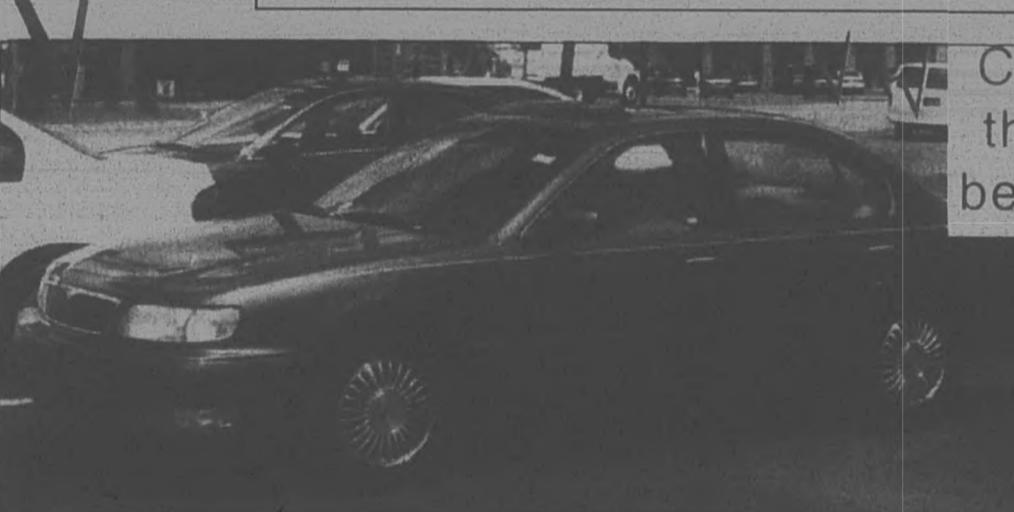
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 10

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, August 22, 2002

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Contracts awarded for Elba levee rehab project

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The wheels of government continue to turn, if not at the speed Elba people really wanted to hear because it could be as long as three months before any dirt is moved. He quickly listed a number of permits and other "red tape" items that must be completed before the work can legally begin.

The Army Corp. of Engineers announced last Friday the official awarding of contracts on the long awaited \$12 million Elba levee rehab project. The successful bidder is LJC Construction Company of Dothan. Project Manager is Gene Oden, who now lives in Enterprise and was heavily involved with the Elba flood recovery efforts of 1998 while working with Hammer Construction Co.

Corp. of Engineers sources had said several weeks ago that they had received a number of good bids, and at least five of them had come in with prices well under construction cost estimates.

LJC Construction is a minority owned company, owned and managed by Lori Clark. She was featured several months ago in a Dothan Eagle article lauding her extensive, growing, and very successful, work record on a large and varied number of government construction contracts.

Tuesday, Oden said he and the company were proud and pleased to be included in this major project. He explained that the company has done a lot of government work but this is different work and to cover as much of the local matching cost as possible with in-kind work.

In response to all Elba's ques-

tions of, "When are you going to start moving dirt," Oden said his answer was not going to be the one Elba people really wanted to hear because it could be as long as three months before any dirt is moved. He quickly listed a number of permits and other "red tape" items that must be completed before the work can legally begin.

A preconstruction meeting with the Corp. of Engineers is expected in the second week of September. A big hurdle that is already being addressed is preparing an application for an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) permit on the company's plans for handling the waste water, and other runoff, from the project. Mr. Oden expects this to take three to four weeks at best.

He closed with an observation that typically these projects can take 90 days to get underway,

and at best, it will take 60 days to get detailed permits and other paperwork ready and approved by the Corp. and other government regulatory agencies involved.

Much of the clearing work in the expanded levee right-of-way has already been done by City of Elba crews. They moved in as soon as deeds had been signed and cleared buildings, trees, etc. in an effort to speed the completion work and to cover as much of the local matching cost as possible with in-kind work.

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A preconstruction meeting with the Corp. of Engineers is expected in the second week of September. A big hurdle that is already being addressed is preparing an application for an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) permit on the company's plans for handling the waste water, and other runoff, from the project. Mr. Oden expects this to take three to four weeks at best.

He closed with an observation that typically these projects can take 90 days to get underway,

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